

WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION

2014 Annual Report



WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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Update from the WAPCA-Ghana Country Coordinator



2014 was the year of change for WAPCA as we bid a fond farewell to Jeanne Marie Pittman, the Country Coordinator, in July. WAPCA would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne Marie for her hard work and dedication and wish her well in her future endeavours. And so I introduce myself – Andrea Dempsey – as the new WAPCA Country Coordinator. I come to WAPCA from the Zoological Society of London, where I worked for ten years. I first became aware of WAPCA in 2007 when ZSL London Zoo received their first group of white-naped mangabeys, including Lucky a male born at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in Accra. I've worked closely with the species – caring for, training with and even rearing one - and first visited Ghana in 2008 as I conducted research on behalf of the EEP on neonatal deaths. Since then I remained in contact with WAPCA and in early 2014 I returned to carry out primate surveys with WAPCA as part of my MSc final project, I did not know then I would be returning only a few months later to stay. I feel incredibly privileged to hold this position and I look forward to working with you all to save the endangered primates of West Africa.

WAPCA members, sponsors, partners and friends have continued to generously support us over the past year allowing us to continue the work here in Ghana at both the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and also in the field working with communities to protect the forests and the primates that inhabit them – we cannot thank you enough.

The Upper Guinean Rainforest of West Africa is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the African continent, supporting over 1800 endemic plants, 31 endemic threatened birds, 35 endemic threatened mammals and 49 endemic threatened amphibians. Over 85% of the Upper Guinean Rainforest has already disappeared and the remaining 15% is under constant threat from bush meat hunting, illegal mining and logging and massive clear cutting of the rainforest for rubber, cocoa and palm oil plantations.

In 2014, WAPCA's *in situ* conservation efforts continued to focus on some of the poorest, most marginalized communities in Ghana. Through WAPCA's Trans-border Community-managed Rainforest Project, WAPCA is successfully working towards reducing illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols; improve the health of the rainforest through the reforestation of areas degraded by illegal lumbering and mining; create sustainable community-managed agro-forestry plantations to reduce harvesting of forest products and clear-cutting of virgin forests for large scale export commodities (cocoa, palm oil, rubber) and lay the foundation for a Trans-border Community-managed Forest Reserve between the Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana and the Tanoé Community Forests.

WAPCA's *ex situ* conservation efforts have focused on assisting the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission with the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre where endangered primates rescued from the bushmeat and pet trade play a vital role in providing the only source for new genetic stock for the white-naped mangabey and Roloway monkey European Endangered species Programme (EEP). Racky, a white-naped mangabey male, was successful exported to Barcelona Zoo where he wasted little time and is already a proud father! Here at the centre we too celebrated the patter of tiny feet with the birth of a mangabey at the beginning of the year!

So again, we would like to thank all our members, sponsors and partners for helping us with the vital work of preserving West Africa's most endangered primates.

Best wishes, *Andrea Dempsey*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

MISSION:

Conservation of *Endangered* West African primate species and their habitat

VISION

Long-term survival of West African *Endangered* primates and persistence of their habitat

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- *In situ* conservation of *Endangered* West African primates and their habitats
- *Ex situ* conservation of *Endangered* West African primates through the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and participation in the EEP.
- Provide equipment and training for the staff of the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission to increase effective management of protected areas
- Conduct education and awareness programs with regard to the conservation of West African primates and protection of their habitat
- Provide in-country capacity building to enable local communities to sustainably manage community owned lands
- Conduct community benefit programs to help alleviate poverty and provide alternative livelihoods for local communities
- Monitor West African Endangered primate populations in the Upper Guinean rainforest

PROJECT SUMMARY

West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) is an initiative of several European Zoos, the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) and its French Partner organization Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales (CEPA). The main goal of WAPCA is to effectively preserve primate habitat in the Upper Guinean Rainforest of West Africa, which is under serious threat of destruction. WAPCA has been promoting the protection of endangered primates in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire since 2001 and in 2007, we established, WAPCA Ghana, a local NGO which is managed in partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission. WAPCA Ghana's activities have integrated various approaches to primate conservation, including research to assess current population levels, training/support for Wildlife Division field staff to improve wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching, training of community members as wildlife monitors and forest patrol team members, small-scale ecotourism and livelihood projects, awareness campaign in



rural and urban communities as well as the establishment of an Endangered Primate Centre in the capitol city of Accra. WAPCA works closely with the Wildlife Division (WD) of the Ghana Forestry Commission which is a full managing partner of WAPCA Ghana and assists the Commission with the protection of the rainforests of the Western Region of Ghana which form a significant portion of the Upper Guinean Rainforest. Other collaborating partners include; Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Community Conservation Inc., the Mangabey in Ghana Association, the University of Barcelona and Coastal Resource Center-Ghana.

WAPCA MEMBERS

- Zoo Heidelberg
- Zoo de Mulhouse
- Parc Zoològic de Barcelona
- Dublin Zoo
- Zoo Landau
- Allwetterzoo Münster
- Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten-und Populationsschutz (ZGAP)
- Zoo La Palmyre
- La Vallée des Singes, Romagne
- Zoological Society of London
- Zoo Bojnice
- Twycross Zoo
- Zoo Duisburg
- Munich Zoo
- Bioparc Valencia



*West African endangered primate
illustrations by artist Stephen D. Nash*

Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. WAPCA membership dues provide the crucial funding for all WAPCA Ghana core operating expenses and also provide significant funding for rainforest protection activities in Côte d'Ivoire.

FOCAL SPECIES AND CONSERVATION STATUS

- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus diana Roloway*) Status: *Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey, (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*) Status: *Endangered*

Within the eastern region of the Upper Guinean rainforest (extending from central Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana) resides a distinct community of primates, endemic to the area, including the *Critically Endangered* (possibly extinct) Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) the *Endangered* Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus diana roloway*) and the *Endangered* white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*) which are listed amongst the world's 25 most endangered primates. While Miss Waldron's red colobus may already be extinct, the Roloway monkey and white-naped mangabey appear to be following the same path to extinction. Additional endemic primates include the *Endangered* Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the *Vulnerable* Geoffroy's black-and-white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), the *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*). WAPCA's main mission is the protection of these last remaining rainforests and the long term survival of

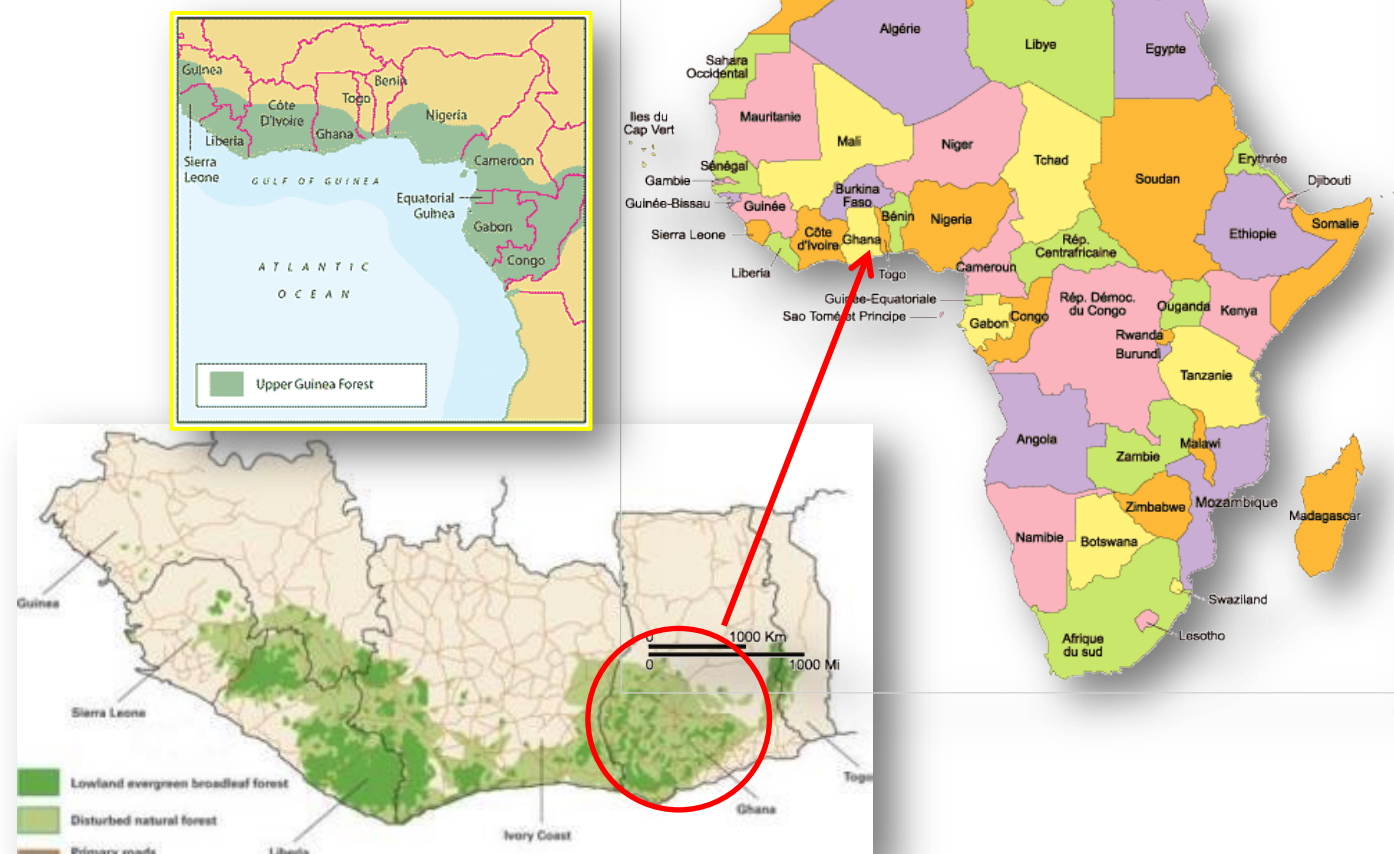
West Africa's endangered primates through the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and the development of sustainable rainforest management projects.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND HABITAT

Upper Guinean Rainforest, West Africa

The Upper Guinean Rainforest constitutes a 350 km wide strip of West African coastal rainforest stretching from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border and is listed as one of the IUCN's 25 Key Biodiversity Areas, WWF's Global Spot region, a CI Biodiversity Hotspot, and a Birdlife International's Important Bird Area. The IUCN 25 Key Biodiversity Areas cover only 1,4 % of the earth's surface but contain more than 60% of all animal and plant species found on this planet. The Upper Guinean Rainforest is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the African continent supporting over 1800 endemic plants, 31 endemic threatened birds, 35 endemic threatened mammals and 49 endemic threatened amphibians. Within the eastern portion of the Upper Guinean forest, relatively large areas of lowland rain forest are now almost entirely confined to eastern Côte d'Ivoire and western Ghana. These forests form a secondary area of endemism and are home to a number of threatened primate species including Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus Diana roloway*), white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*), Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*)-possibly extinct, Geoffrey's black and white colobus (*Colobus polykomos*), lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus cephus petaurista*), Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*) and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well as a number of other unique mammals such as zebra duiker (*Cephalophus zebra*), royal antelope (*Neotragus pygmaeus*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*), Dephwa mouse (*Dephomys eburnea*), white-throated shrew (*Crocidura wimmeri*) and the Togo mouse (*Leimacomys buettneri*). The unique fauna and flora of the Upper Guinean Rainforest has long been under the threat of massive deforestation and extensive bush meat hunting.

Upper Guinean Rainforest



CRITICAL ISSUES AND THREATS

Deforestation is the greatest threat to both the environment and wildlife dependent upon the rainforests of West Africa. According to a recent CEPF Ecosystem Report, the Upper Guinean Forests which stretches from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border, has been reduced to a mere 15% of its original forest cover. Logging, agriculture, illegal mining, and human encroachment have left fragmented remnants of rainforest. The unique fauna and flora found within these areas of rainforest have long been under the stress of deforestation and overhunting and with diminishing forest cover in which to retreat, wildlife within these sparse forests are finding no place left to hide.



Extensive bush meat hunting for both local



consumption and export to other countries has caused a massive decline in the wildlife populations of West Africa. Wildlife populations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are disappearing at such an alarming rate that many of the remaining rainforest habitats have become nearly devoid of mammal species, causing conservationist to now label these forests as "empty forests".

Estimates of the bush meat trade run as high as \$400 million per year in Ghana and \$500 million in Côte d'Ivoire.

Rampant clear cutting of virgin rainforest for agroforestry plantations such as palm oil, rubber and cocoa is the major cause of deforestation of the Upper Guinean Rainforest. Unsustainable agriculture practices not only destroy the rainforests and pollute the environment, but also provide little benefit to rural communities who also depend on the rainforest for their survival.



2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

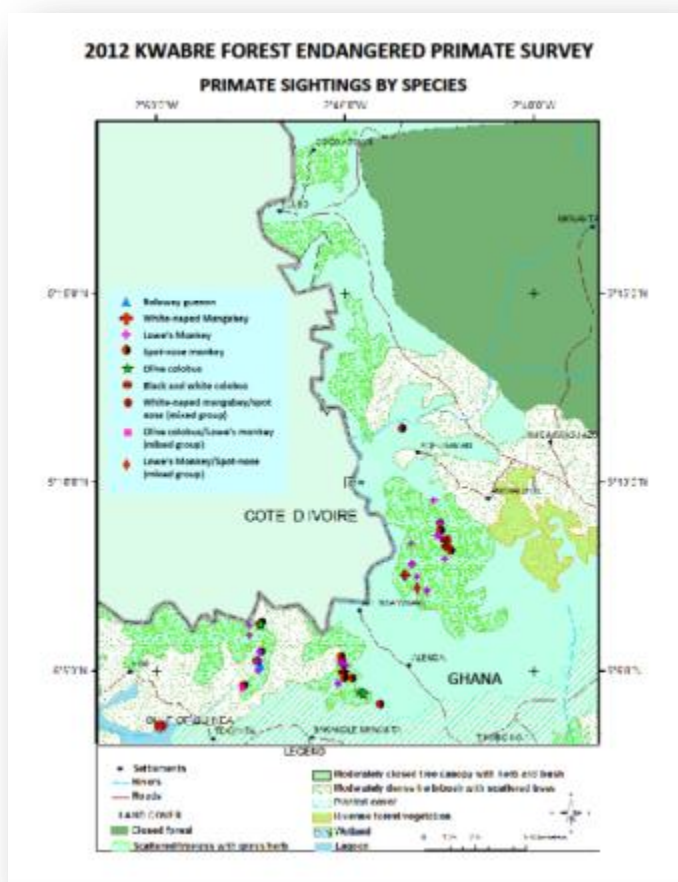
TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

Protecting the Last Remaining Roloway Monkey Habitat in Ghana

The Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus diana roloway*) one of the *World's 25 Most Endangered Primates* is on the knives edge of extinction! Roloway monkeys have been systematically exterminated from all former habitat across their entire range with the exception of two community-owned rainforest in eastern Côte d'Ivoire and Western Ghana respectively. The Kwabre Rainforest is a 2,550 hectare corridor of community-owned virgin rainforest which lies along the Tanoé River, directly opposite to the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. Until very recently, primatology experts believed that the Tanoé Forest housed the world's only remaining populations of Roloway monkeys. However, surveys conducted by WAPCA in 2011 and 2012 have revealed the presence of additional Roloway monkey populations in the adjoining community-owned Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana's Western Region. This is the first sighting of Roloway monkeys in Ghana since 2003, despite extensive surveys conducted in protected/unprotected areas throughout their former range in Ghana.



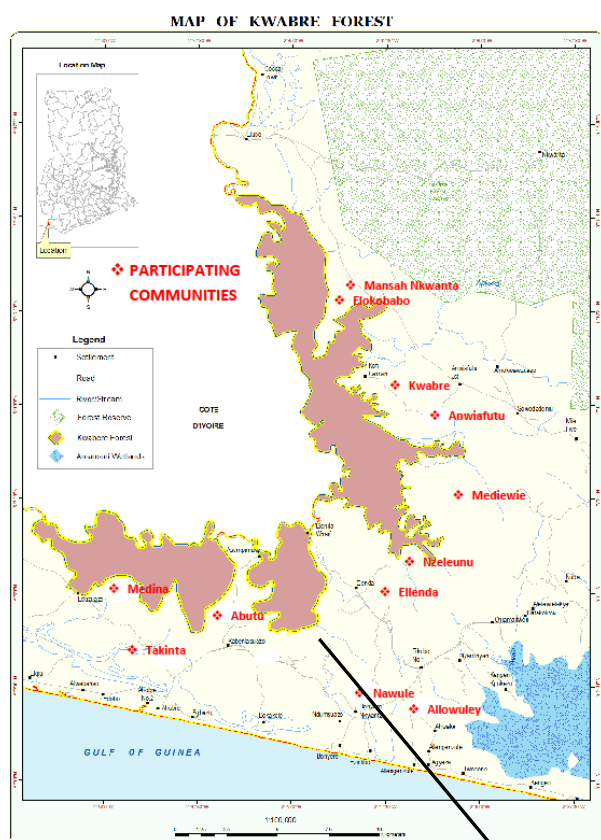
Roloway Monkey
(*Cercopithecus diana roloway*)



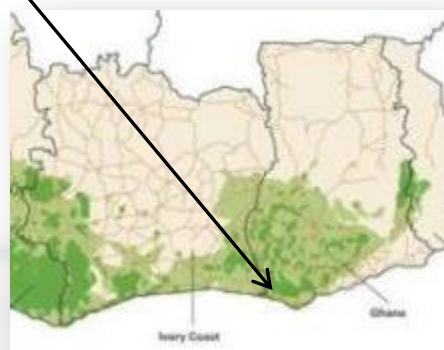
The Kwabre Rainforest surveys also identified significant populations of other endangered primates including white-naped mangabeys (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*), Geoffrey's black & white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well the more common Lowe's monkeys (*Cercopithecus campbelli lowei*) and lesser spot-nosed monkeys (*Cercopithecus petaurista*). WAPCA and the Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI) are currently assisting the rural communities on both sides of the border to declare the Kwabre and Tanoé Forest as federated community managed conservation areas with a long-term goal of creating a community-owned trans-border rainforest.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA's Trans-border Community-managed Rainforest Project has four main aims;

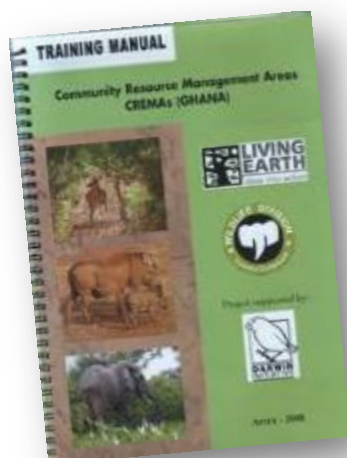


- 1) Protect and enhance 2,500 hectares of community-owned virgin rainforest through the transformation of the Kwabre Rainforest into a federated Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)
- 2) Reduce illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols,
- 3) Improve the health of the rainforest through the reforestation of areas degraded by illegal lumbering and mining
- 4) Create sustainable community-managed agro-forestry plantations to reduce harvesting of forest products and clear-cutting of virgin forests for large scale export commodities
- 5) Lay the foundation for a Trans-border Community-managed Forest Reserve between the Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana and the Tanoé Community Forests in Côte d'Ivoire.



Kwabre Rainforest

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT



1. Creation of the Kwabre Community Resource Management Area

Because rural communities depend on the health of the rainforest for their livelihood and because environmental monitoring and conservation must ultimately be implemented at the local level, it is crucial that local people have the understanding, skills, and economic incentives to manage their resources in ways that sustain natural ecosystem processes.

The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission is currently utilizing CREMA's as the primary institutional mechanism for implementing collaborative sustainable natural resource management outside protected areas in Ghana. The CREMA is regulated through the development of a constitution, bylaws and natural resource management plan which are created by the CREMA committees composed of elected community members. The CREMA constitution, bylaws and natural resource management plan are formulated in consultation with the Wildlife Division and the District Assembly of the area and once they are approved the communities will receive a *Certificate of Devolution* which will give them the authority to sustainably manage their lands and to apprehend illegal miners, bushmeat hunters and chainsaw operators.

WAPCA has been working with the twelve communities that surround the Kwabre Forest to create a federated Conservation Resource Management Area (CREMA). All members of the twelve communities



CRMC receive Certificates of Attendance for the Financial and Natural Resource Management Workshop

were asked to vote and 32 individuals were elected to sit on the Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) as representatives of their community. A financial and natural resource management workshop was held for the CRMC members in order for them to best execute their role within the CREMA. At this workshop the Community Executive Committee (CEC) was successfully elected. The CREMA has now drafted their bylaws and constitution, which has been submitted to the District Assembly who will review it and approve.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams

One of the greatest challenges for the rural communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest in terms of sustainably managing their natural resources is the rampant illegal logging, mining and bushmeat hunting being perpetrated by people outside the community which is destroying habitat, polluting water bodies and depleting the wildlife in their rainforest.

WAPCA has been working with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission and the twelve communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest to help reduce the illegal activity through the formation and training of Community Rainforest Protection Teams.



Lectures & Discussions

Three members of each community attended a training workshop this year. The workshop was conducted with the assistance of the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission.

The first two days of the workshop consisted of lectures and discussions concerning primate identification techniques, wildlife laws, detecting illegal activities and safe apprehension of illegal offenders.

The third day focused on practical training on the use of compass, GPS, data recording, visual and auditory identification of primates in the field, identification of illegal activity in the field and physical methods of safe apprehension of illegal offenders.

The Community Rainforest Protection Teams are now patrolling Kwabre Rainforest two to three times a week to help combat illegal activities. The patrols regularly alert the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission of illegal miners, bushmeat hunters and chainsaw operators, and assist in their apprehension.

All fines paid, equipment taken and lumber seized are redistributed to the community under the CREMA executive committee's guidance.



Practical skills are gained, for example GPS use.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

3. Reforestation

The Kwabre Forest contains a diversity of niche-specific plants that have evolved to adapt to the flooded conditions of this peat-swamp rainforest habitat. It is crucial that seedlings used in reforestation efforts are sustainably harvested from the rainforest itself to ensure their



adaptability and maintain the appropriate biodiversity of this unique ecosystem. Patches of deforestation in the core zone of virgin rainforest caused by illegal lumbering will be enriched with indigenous tree seedlings with a focus on trees utilized by endangered primates.

WAPCA with the Wildlife Division have conducted four training workshops, attended by 240 community members, in nursery husbandry and care.

Consequently, seven tree nurseries have now been successfully established. Species such as mahogany and cedrellas, have been germinated and will be replanted in core areas of the forest, areas where primate populations are the prevalent. The species of tree have been especially selected due to their height. Planting of the tree seedlings will take place early 2015 when the forest is most accessible.



Community members planting seeds in their nurseries

4. Agro-forestry for Value Chain Development

For centuries the forest has provided a source of income for the communities that surround it, however this has now become unsustainable and alternative livelihoods must be established. Working with the communities WAPCA is establishing agro-forestry plantations, where indigenous trees can be grown and harvested away from the virgin forest and the home range of the endangered primates. WAPCA too is supporting the production of non-forest timber products (NFTP), in consultation with Solidaridad, a Dutch development organization specialized in sustainable chain development, WAPCA are providing support and training to develop a value chain for produce such as cocoa beans, oil palm and cassava so that farmers within the communities get the best market price for their produce.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

With the success of the Trans-border Community-managed Reserve in 2014, it is hoped that 2015 will see the joining of the Kwabre Forest in Ghana with the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. The non-profit organization, Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI) is currently helping the communities surrounding the Tanoé Forest to sustainably manage their rainforest. However, people from outside the rural communities are illegally trafficking lumber, bushmeat and other forest products across Tanoé River which forms the border between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

The apprehension and prosecution of illegal offenders is difficult once the perpetrators have crossed the border as the traditional authorities in the communities have no jurisdiction over the trafficking of illegal products that have been obtained from outside their respective lands. WAPCA, RASAP-CI and the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission are currently helping the communities on both sides of the Tanoé River to form joint-patrol teams that will allow for the efficient prosecution of people illegally trafficking forest products between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.



The Tanoé River and forest, taken from the edge of the Kwabre Forest. The short distance makes it easy for illegal lumber to be exported out of the country.

To keep up to date on our community projects please visit our stories online here:

http://www.sospecies.org/sos_news/success_stories/?18904/Ghanas-communities-protecting-

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT



Primate and Illegal Activity Survey Of the Kwabre Forest piloting SMART technology

Andrea Dempsey, in collaboration with WAPCA, funded a 28 day survey of the Kwabre Forest for primate presence and illegal activity. The survey took over 5 weeks, with two teams walking between 3-5km a day. The teams were made up of WAPCA staff, Wildlife Division officers and Community Patrol Team members. All observations of primate presence were noted, such as calls, feeding signs and direct sightings. Tree felling, traps, charcoal production, used shot-gun cartridges and other signs of illegal activity were recorded. All data collected was then uploaded into SMART for analysis.



**Feeding sign of
primates**

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is an open source solution, a free tool for measuring, evaluating and improving the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols and site-based conservation activities in areas of limited and constrained resources.

The data was analysed on number of observations seen and again for observations encountered per kilometre

walked. This allowed for different areas to be compared eliminating bias towards time spent and kilometres walked in each area. The primates were counted in groups rather than individual numbers, however it was estimated that they moved in mixed groups between 15-20 in size.

The results showed that the Roloway monkey and the white-naped mangabey are still present in the forest. It also highlighted that in areas where the patrols have been most active the longest lower illegal activities were observed and higher primate presences were encountered.



Empty shot-gun cartridge

During the survey a number arrests were made and lumber seized. The patrol teams take time with the arrested individuals to educate them on the Ghanaian laws, explaining the reason for their arrest and how they can make alternative choices to avoid further trouble.



Illegal chainsaw operators

The primates are very weary of humans due to over hunting so it was very difficult for the teams to take photographs of them also their speed in the canopy also proved problematic. 2015 will see the installation of camera traps, thanks to the BIAZA Conservation Award, so we look forward to showing you the results.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT



SMART Workshop

Once the survey was completed all the communities came together to discuss the findings and understand how SMART technology works. It is hoped that SMART can be used in forests to facilitate effective patrolling and data analysis in the future.

Andrea Dempsey and WAPCA Field Coordinator – David Osei both gave presentations and the Wildlife Division Park Manager of Ankasa Nature Park Reserve spoke to the teams about the importance of their work.



Andrea & David give presentations on SMART



Community members attend the workshop



Community members arriving at the workshop



*Community members, Wildlife Division staff,
Andrea Dempsey and WAPCA staff.*

Acknowledgements:



2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WHITE-NAPED MANGABEY CONSERVATION PROJECT

The White-naped Mangabey Conservation Project was developed to assist WAPCA with the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the species through scientific research. Students from Barcelona University who have been generously financially supported by Barcelona Zoo have continued to study the behaviour of the white-naped mangabeys at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre through 2014. At the beginning of the year, we had two students conducting research on the physiological make up of our mangabeys – through the collection of faecal samples and stress hormone analysis. Using these



ongoing behavioural studies we will next year

transfer one or two groups with a good social profile into a semi-free enclosure at Achimota forest, which will facilitate their behavioural and ecological adaptation to a more natural environment.

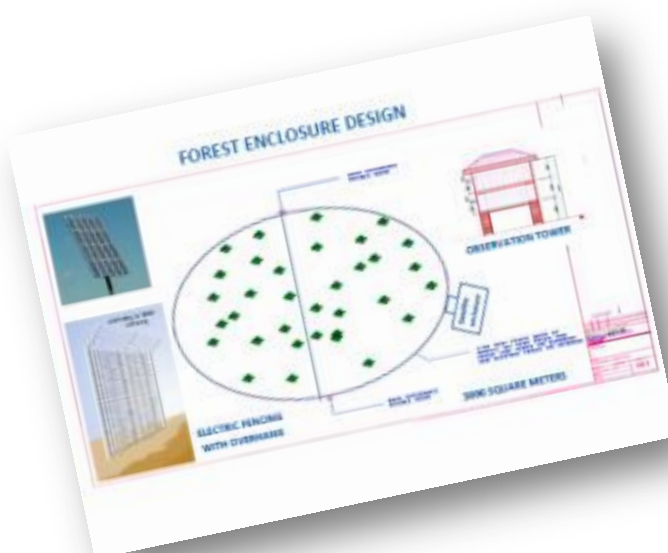


The semi- free enclosure is 3000 m² area adjacent to the existing Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in Achimota Forest. The forest enclosure will allow the selected individuals to exhibit natural behaviours in a natural environment. The enclosure will be surrounded by a solar powered electric

fence and an observation tower will be constructed to facilitate behavioural observations as well as an educational resource for the urban school children that visit Accra Zoological Gardens on a daily basis.

2014 saw a fantastic level of financial support from worldwide institutions as well as material donations from DuPaul Wood Treatment Ghana Ltd and Nexan Cable Metal Ghana Ltd for the new enclosure. We can now begin building the main structure in 2015. We are still seeking additional funds in order to build the observation tower. A full project proposal is available for anyone interested in supporting the construction of the tower.

Construction consultancy has been donated kindly by Elizabeth Loudon and Guy Gater.



2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT by Chaachele Faalong –EPBC Coordinator.

ENDANGERED PRIMATE BREEDING CENTRE

First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Suu-Ire and the rest of the Accra Zoo staff together with our volunteers who spend many hours helping to provide enrichment and improve husbandry conditions for the fourteen white naped mangabeys and two Roloways at the EPBC. They have been outstanding in their efforts to make the EPBC a playful habitat for the primates.



The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission maintains the Accra Zoo in the capital city of Accra, Ghana which is located in Ghana's large urban forest known as the Achimota Forest.

In 2005, WAPCA constructed an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre on the Accra Zoo grounds, which is managed by the Wildlife Division's veterinarian, Dr. Richard Suu-Ire.

Dr. Suu-Ire has been extremely proactive in incorporating all the confiscated and orphaned Roloway

monkeys and white-naped mangabeys living at the centre into European Endangered species Programme (EEP) in order to ensure a healthy assurance population for these highly endangered primate species. The endangered primates being maintained at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre currently provide the only new founders for the white-naped mangabey and Roloway monkey EEPs.

There are currently fourteen white-naped mangabeys (seven males and seven females) at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre. This is the world's largest collection of white-naped mangabeys under human care housed in one location. There is currently one male and one female Roloway Monkey at the centre.

New Baby Mangabey – Sonia's 3rd baby!



Sonia and Yaw

On the 2nd of January a male mangabey was born to Sonia and Ekow, one of our most successful troops. For the first time through routine observations of genital swelling we were able to accurately predict when the baby would be born, thanks again to the relenting efforts of our volunteers. The healthy male mangabey has been named Yaw Yirenkyi after the head zoo keeper Evans Yirenkyi.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT by Chaachele Faalong –EPBC Coordinator.

Regrouping our breeding stock

In order to ensure a healthy assurance population for these highly endangered primate species and WAPCA's commitment to improving the living conditions of the primates at the EPBC, regrouping occasionally occurs depending on evolving social trends observed at the centre.

The decision was made to move the Roloway pair to a quieter, secluded area of the zoo to aid breeding and regroup Ekow, the alpha male of Sonia's group who had



Preparations are made to release Ekow



Ekow is released into his new enclosure

lost his place to a more active wild caught juvenile male Nuba, with our two older ladies – Fatima & Salome - for a more sedate lifestyle. The centre staff and myself, with the expertise of Mrs Andrea Dempsey, then a visiting Senior Zoo Keeper at the Zoological Society of London, carefully and with measured expediency boxed and moved the animals without the need of restraint or physical contact with the animals.

During the process, Andrea educated the keepers and myself on safe methods of capture including non-invasive, reward based training procedures. Andrea explained on post capture the importance of examining the animal for potential injuries they might have sustained from the capture procedure. This included checking for signs of exhaustion which is indicated in the breathing rate, bleeding in the mouth and injury to limbs and tail of the animals.

The moves went exceptionally well, the Roloways settled into their new home and began to mate almost immediately. Ekow too enjoys his much more relaxed retired pace of living with Fatima and Salome – the “old ladies” of the centre.

Students and Volunteers



Five international students studying abroad at the University of Ghana volunteered at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre for the practical component of their studies in 2014; Lindsay Wilson, Nina Zegler, Alex Alder, Erin Yenser, Katie Semo and Oscar Psychas. We look forward to welcoming more students and volunteers in 2015, please get in touch if you would like to join the dedicated team of WAPCA volunteers.

2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT by Chaachele Faalong –EPBC Coordinator.

Hola Racky!



Racky at the EPBC

As part of keeping captive genetic variability rich, we sent out a male mangabey – Racky - whose both parents were wild caught, to Barcelona Zoo. We are happy to announce that he has not only settled in but successfully integrated into his new group and became a father! Faecal samples were taken prior to his departure and after his arrival in an attempt to find out how the experience of transfer and environmental change has on animals in our care and so to better understand their needs and provide for them.

New Barrier fencing

The EPBC received some love and attention too, the wooden barrier fencing was changed and a good clean-up was given throughout. The zoo gets an influx of over a thousand school children and so the



The barrier before....

centre undergoes substantial wear and tear. However our volunteers are dedicated and willing bunch always on hand to help. The wooden barrier was taken down and replaced with sturdy termite proof concrete poles, which were painted green and then laced with blue rope.



Concrete poles are constructed and painted

The installation and up keep of safety barriers are an essential requirement at the zoo. Both public and animal safety and welfare are a priority at the centre.



Blue rope is laced around through poles



...the barriers after.

***Thank you again to all the staff, students and volunteers at the
Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in 2014.***

Chaachele Faalong - EPBC Coordinator

NEW WAPCA STAFF

Meet Kwadwo Mensah

In October 2013 the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission posted National Service person, Kwadwo Mensah, to work at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre on the ticket of the Wildlife Division. The Ghana National Service Scheme mobilizes and deploys Ghanaian citizens especially newly qualified University graduates, on national priority development programmes for a period of one year. It was during this period that WAPCA noticed the hard work of Kwadwo. Once his service was complete, WAPCA offered him employment.

Kwadwo holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, specialising in wildlife from the University of Development Studies. He is currently helping me and the staff of Accra Zoo with the daily care of the primates at the centre and is also helping to provide environmental enrichment and monitor diets for the endangered primates. Kwadwo also helps us with administrative tasks.



WAPCA IN THE NEWS

WAPCA hit the headlines at the end of the 2014. The Daily Graphic, the only state owned Ghana wide daily paper, published an article on WAPCA and the generous donation of the teak poles from DuPaul Wood Treatment for the semi free enclosure in the Achimota Forest. The article provided an excellent opportunity to highlight not only the work of WAPCA but also the plight of the endangered species of Ghana. We hope too that this publicity may inspire other local companies to contribute materials to the enclosure.

Daily Graphic, Wednesday, January 14, 2015. News 43
Visit www.graphic.com.gh

Local company provides teak to protect endangered monkeys

By Akwasi Ampratwum Mensah, TAKORADI

DUPAUL Wood Treatment (Ghana) Limited (DWT), a local company in the Western Region, has donated 150 treated teak poles to the West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) towards the construction of semi-free enclosures for endangered monkeys in the Achimota Forest in Accra.

The enclosure, the first of many to be put up, will provide a near natural home for the world's largest collection of white-naped Mangabeys (endangered monkeys) currently housed at the endangered primate breeding centre in the Achimota Forest.

The WAPCA, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), was established in 2001 by 11 European zoos and two nature conservation bodies to ensure that rare forest primates, including monkeys and chimps, whose continuing survival is based on the safe security of the Upper

Guinean Rainforest within the West African Sub-region, are protected. The organisation, which works in Ghana's four protected areas, also conducts research into the ecology of the monkeys living there and assists rangers patrolling the rainforests.

20,000 visitors
Receiving the treated teak at a brief ceremony on the company's premises, near Apremo in Takoradi, Mrs Vivian Akweley Noleley Nuhu, a board member of WAPCA, explained that the project would allow the 20,000 annual visitors to the centre to learn about Ghana's wildlife heritage.

She indicated that the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission (FC) was gradually developing a mini-zoo, incorporated into the design of the proposed new eco park inside the forest, and that was the first step in considering the possibility of re-introducing that species back into the wild.

Extinction
At present, Mangabeys exist only in protected areas in the Western Evergreen Rainforest in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and parts of Burkina Faso. Over the last few decades, these monkeys and other wildlife have disappeared from the Upper Guinean

The organisation, which works in Ghana's four protected areas, also conducts research into the ecology of the monkeys living there and assists rangers patrolling the rainforests.

Rainforest, which once formed a continuous stretch of rainforest along the coast of West Africa, from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border, due to excessive logging and clear cutting for agricultural purposes.

Mrs Nuhu pointed out that with increasingly fewer places to hide, the remaining population of those monkey types were under serious threat of extinction from rampant bush meat hunting.

Mr Kingsley Amoah, the Finance Manager of Dupaul, who made the donation on behalf of the company, explained that the company was conscious of its social responsibility and that the decision by WAPCA to protect the endangered monkeys was a welcome one.

• Mr Amoah (with left arm stretched) explaining a point to Mrs Nuhu, other WAPCA Board Members and Dupaul Staff.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The West African Primate Conservation Action was formed by a consortium of European zoos and conservation organizations. WAPCA began working in Ghana in 2001, with additional activities commencing in Ivory Coast in 2004. In 2007, WAPCA established the local NGO, WAPCA Ghana. WAPCA Ghana operates in full partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission. We would like to thank the Wildlife Division for all their support over the past year, without which the activities and achievements of WAPCA Ghana would not be possible.

Additional WAPCA Ghana partners include Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Community Conservation Inc., the Mangabey in Ghana Association, the University of Barcelona and Coastal Resource Center-Ghana. Collaboration with these partners has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of WAPCA Ghana over the past year and we would like to thank them for their support and assistance.

WAPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

West African Primate Conservation Action Ghana would also like to formally thank our board members for all their support and advice throughout 2014. The WAPCA boards are the backbone of our organization and it is through their support and advice that WAPCA Ghana is able to have a positive effect on preservation of West African primate habitat and the successful breeding of endangered West African primates.

WAPCA EUROPE BOARD

WAPCA's global activities are overseen by the WAPCA Europe Board of Directors which includes the following members:

Dr. Klaus Wuennemann-Chairman of the Board
 Dr Brice Lefaux-Vice Chairman of the Board
 Dra. M^aTeresa Abelló Poveda -Secretary
 Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer
 Mr Nick Lindsay-Advisor to the Board
 Mr Roland Wirth- Advisor to the Board

WAPCA GHANA BOARD

WAPCA Ghana is a local NGO, overseen by a Ghanaian board of directors, who direct all WAPCA's Ghana's in situ and ex situ activities. The WAPCA Ghana Board of Directors includes the following members:

Togbi Kporku III – Chairman of the Board
 Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Director of the Board
 Dr Erasmus Owusu – Director of the Board
 Dr Richard Suu-Ire – Director of the Board
 Mr David Nuku Tettey – Director of the Board
 Mr Stephen Tamaja- Director of the Board
 Mrs Andrea Dempsey - Secretary

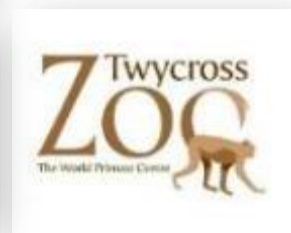




ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU WAPCA MEMBERS!

WAPCA membership provide the crucial funding for all WAPCA Ghana core operating expenses and also provide significant funding for rainforest protection activities in Côte d'Ivoire. It is the support of WAPCA membership that has allowed WAPCA to implement vital *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts in the Upper Guinean Rainforest over the past fourteen years. Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. Funds for specific projects are acquired through major sponsor donations.



MAJOR FIELD PROJECT SPONSORS

